



June 11, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

Sully's Hill is a National Game Preserve located within the Spirit Lake Nation – one of the five Tribal Nations with which North Dakota shares geography. This 1,674-acre plot of land is named after General Alfred Sully, who was a military officer during the American Civil War and the Indian Wars.

Because of his role in these wars, and the game preserve's location within Spirit Lake, the Spirit Lake Nation has requested Sully's Hill be renamed "White Horse Hill," which is its original and traditional Dakota name.

Sully's Hill National Game Preserve was first created by the U.S. government on April 27, 1904. On March 3, 1931, Congress transferred the land to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and re-designated the park as Sully's Hill National Game Preserve.

The preserve is now administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a National Wildlife Refuge. Spirit Lake Nation maintains hunting and fishing rights on the land.

In the 1860s, General Sully gained notoriety for his actions against Native American people. Most notably, on Sept. 3, 1863, his troops destroyed a village of some 500 tipis that lodged Yankton, Dakota, Hunkpapa and Sihasapa Lakota peoples – killing hundreds of Native peoples. This battle is known as one of the greatest massacres in North Dakota's history and resulted in the death or capture of over 300 of Spirit Lake Nation's people.

Because Sully's Hill was named through an act of Congress, it will take another act of Congress to restore its original name.

As a state that shares geography and history with Spirit Lake Nation, and as an administration that prioritizes tribal partnerships built on understanding and mutual respect, we support the efforts of U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer in re-designating the site to properly honor its Dakota history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum
Governor